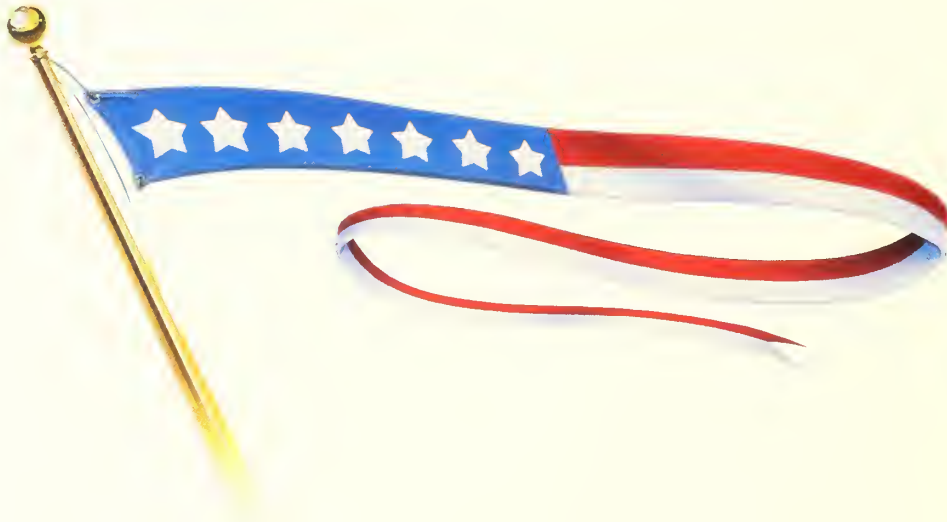


**Commissioning
USS WASP (LHD 1)**

**29 July 1989
Norfolk, Virginia**



THE TRADITION OF COMMISSIONING A SHIP



The Commissioning Ceremony signifies the acceptance for service and the entry of a ship into the active fleet of the United States Navy. At the moment of the breaking of the commissioning pennant, USS WASP (LHD 1) becomes a proud ship of the line. The Commanding Officer, together with the ship's officers and crew, then accepts the duties and responsibilities of making and keeping her ready for any service required by our nation, whether at peace or at war. The naval Commissioning Ceremony has been a tradition of all navies for centuries and in the United States Navy since its beginning; it marks the formal entrance of a man-of-war into the naval forces of her nation. It is the final and perhaps the most significant event of the triad that brings a ship to life: keel laying, launching and christening, and commissioning.

In the early periods of our Navy's

history, no exact procedure for the commissioning ceremony was prescribed. Thus, a ship's date of commissioning was recorded as any one of a number of days—when the colors were first raised, when officers and crew reported on board, when the first log entry was made, or when the ship first put out to sea. Throughout the years, however, one visible and significant manifestation of the commissioned ship has remained constant: active ships of the United States Navy, from days of the handsome frigates under sail to the era of the nuclear powered ships, have proudly flown a commissioning pennant and the "Stars and Stripes."

The commissioning pennant has for centuries been the unique symbol of the man-of-war. Today, as the distinctive mark of a ship in commission, it is flown except when displaced by the personal flag of an Admiral or Commodore aboard the

ship. The origin of the commissioning pennant, like many of our traditions, can be traced to the British Navy. After whipping an adversary, the British thereafter hoisted a long, narrow commissioning pennant in remembrance of the original horsewhip as its distinctive symbol of a man-of-war—a tradition adopted by many world navies.

From its commissioning day forward, USS WASP will assume a unique personality, building upon the will, spirit and dedication of those who serve in this WASP and those who have served on the nine previous WAPSS. USS WASP will embody the "Honor, Tradition, and Excellence" of these WASPs as she sails throughout the world's oceans.

We firmly believe that your presence here today will ensure us "fair winds and a following sea" in all that lies ahead.

Thank you for coming.

CREST AND SHIELD OF USS WASP (LHD 1)



SHIELD

Dark blue and gold are the traditional Navy colors. Blue alludes to the sea, the theater of naval operations. Gold is for excellence. The chevron, a traditional symbol for support, represents the amphibious assault mission of the ship. It resembles a wave moving to shore and refers to the deployment of men and cargo. The wings highlight USS WASP's aviation heritage and capabilities. The modern ship with crossed officer sword and enlisted cutlass adapted from the surface warfare emblem represents leadership, team work and the ship's mission in surface warfare operations. The pile or (sharply pointed "V" shape) is expressive of assault, combat readiness and victory. The counterchange of colors emphasizes this ship's capability to integrate sea, air and land combat missions to

make an amphibious assault. The shield is divided into nine sections honoring the nine previous ships named "WASP."

CREST

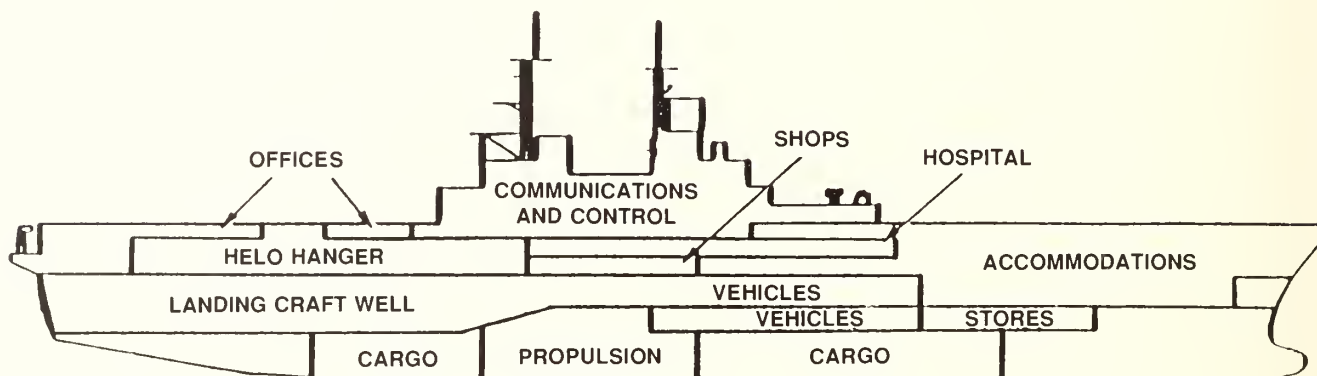
The wasp, with its well developed wings and ability to administer painful stings, epitomizes quick striking power. The stars recall two of the past USS WASPs, CV-7 and CV-18, aircraft carriers that earned two and eight battle stars respectively for World War II service. The red disk or sun refers to World War II Japan and the Pacific Theater where these aircraft carriers saw heavy combat action. The tridents are symbolic of sea power and weaponry.

MOTTO

On a scroll azure edged are the words
HONOR, TRADITION, EXCELLENCE.

SHIP'S CHARACTERISTICS AND MISSION

Amphibious Assault Ship USS WASP (LHD 1)



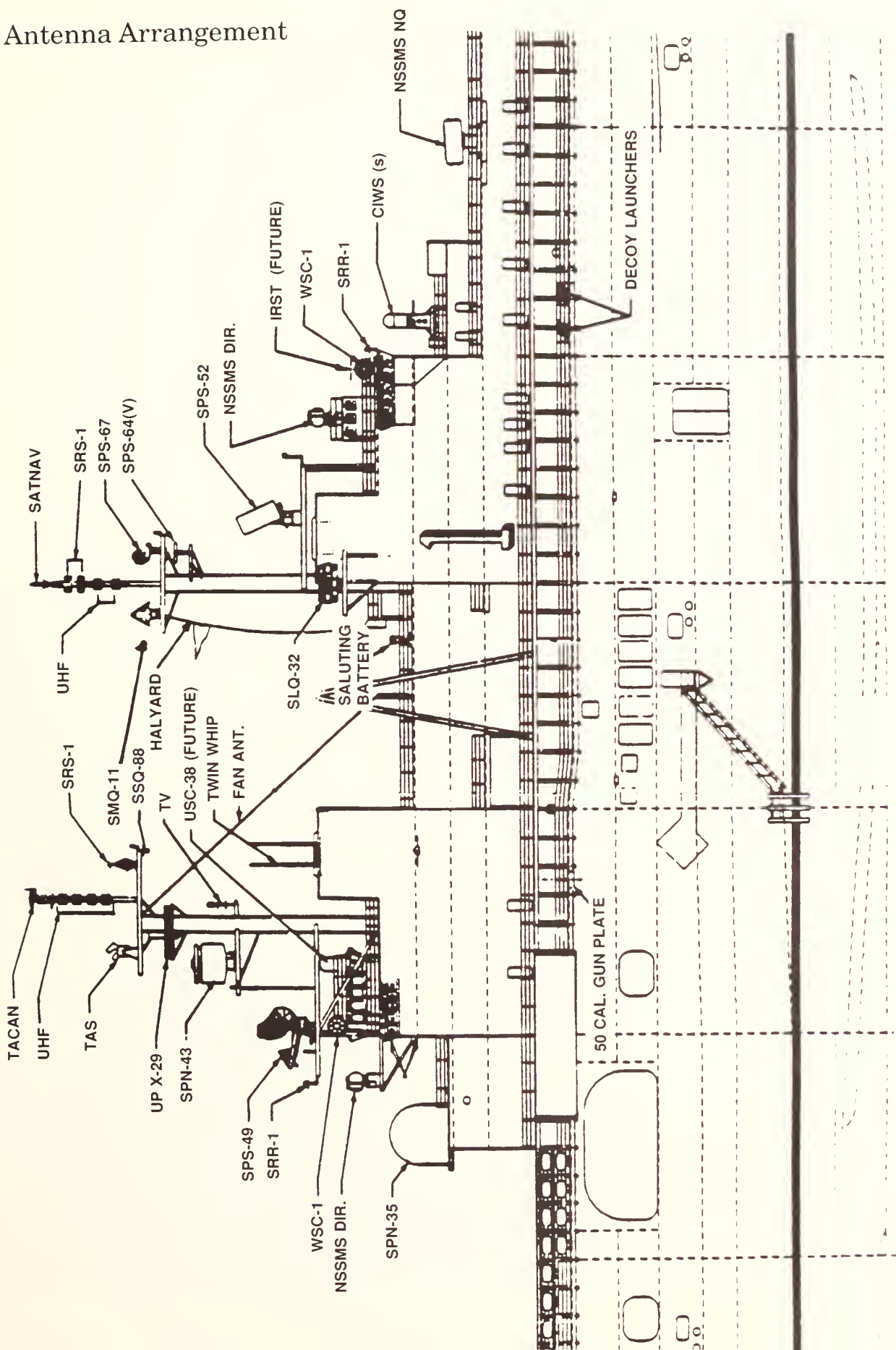
LENGTH:	844 Feet
BEAM:	106 Feet
DISPLACEMENT:	40,500 Tons
SPEED:	20+ Knots
AIRCRAFT:	AH-1T Cobra, UH-1N Huey, CH-46E Sea Knight, CH-53D Sea Stallion, CH-53E Super Stallion, AV-8B Harrier, SH-60B Sea Hawk
LANDING CRAFT:	Air Cushion Landing Craft (LCAC) Alternates: Utility Landing Craft (LCU), Medium Landing Craft (LCM), Amphibious Assault Vehicle (LVTP-7)

ACCOMMODATIONS:	Crew: 1,080; Embarked Troops: 1,870
PROPULSION:	Two Conventional Steam Propulsion Plants, 70,000 Shp (Total)
ARMAMENT:	Three Phalanx Close In Weapons Systems (CIWS) Mounts Two Eight-Cell NATO Sea Sparrow Surface Missile System (NSSMS) Launchers Eight .50 Cal Machine Guns
MEDICAL/DENTAL:	Six Medical Operating Rooms Four Dental Operating Rooms 600 Bed Hospital

The mission of the Multipurpose Amphibious Assault Ship is to conduct prompt and sustained operations at sea. As the multipurpose name implies, USS WASP will operate in support of a variety of warfare missions. Principally, WASP will operate as the centerpiece of the Navy's amphibious groups. She will provide the means to transport, deploy and command

all elements of a marine landing force in assault by air and amphibious craft. Operating with a carrier or battleship battlegroup, WASP will provide aircraft and command/control facilities for sea control missions. During peacetime, WASP will provide disaster relief in support of humanitarian missions and establish naval presence, by showing the flag throughout the world.

Sideview Antenna Arrangement



PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Honorable George H. Bush



SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

The Honorable H. Lawrence Garrett, III

Admiral C. A. H. Trost, USN



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

Captain Leonard F. Picotte, USN
Prospective Commanding Officer, WASP (LHD 1)
Supervisor of Shipbuilding,
Conversion and Repair, USN
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-2210

Dear Captain Picotte:

Congratulations on your assumption of command, and best wishes to you and to your crew on the commissioning of WASP (LHD 1).

The tenth U.S. Navy ship to bear the name, WASP inherits a tradition of excellence that extends from our war for independence through World War II. The newest WASP incorporates the latest technology and the most modern capabilities our Nation can produce, and shall constitute a formidable addition to our Navy-Marine Corps team. It remains for those who man her to bring her to life. I know that the professionalism and skill of your fine crew will continue the tradition of duty and accomplishment firmly established by the gallant ships which have served under the name WASP.

As you assume your place in the fleet, the men who serve in WASP are charged with the heavy responsibility of making her an instrument of peace through strength. I wish you every success in meeting the challenges which lie ahead.

Sincerely,

H. Lawrence Garrett, III
H. Lawrence Garrett, III



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Dear Captain Picotte,

Please accept my congratulations on the commissioning of United States Ship WASP. An unusual distinction and a special responsibility falls upon you as her first commanding officer.

WASP, the newest multipurpose assault ship in the fleet, and the first of her class, embodies the most modern design and construction on the seas today. However, she cannot fulfill the role for which she was authorized by Congress, the defense of our nation, unless she is manned by a dedicated crew capable of operating and maintaining her to the limit of her potential.

Your responsibility is to establish WASP's capability. As your ship and crew perform, she will develop a reputation that will endure over her years of service. As the WASP's first commanding officer, her character will depend, in no small measure, upon your leadership.

Your selection for this most important task is an honor. I have the fullest confidence you will execute your responsibilities well.

Sincerely,

C. A. H. Trost
C. A. H. TROST
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Captain Leonard F. Picotte, USN
PCO, WASP (LHD 1)
Supervisor of Shipbuilding,
Conversion and Repair, USN
Pascagoula, MS 39568-2210

COMMANDER IN CHIEF U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET

COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCE U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET

Admiral Powell F. Carter, Jr., USN

Vice Admiral J. S. Donnell III, USN



COMMANDER IN CHIEF U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET

Dear Captain Picotte,

I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your crew as you commission the Navy's newest combatant, USS WASP (LHD-1).

By utilizing the latest technology in personnel and cargo lift, and over-the-horizon assault, WASP and her follow-on class of amphibious transport ships will greatly enhance our Fleet capabilities for putting men and equipment ashore. This versatility, combined with a superior combat suite, will make you the cornerstone of our amphibious battle group for years to come.

The many hours of training your fine crew has undergone have made them more than ready for the challenge ahead. The enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication of your crew is already visible in the outstanding seamanship and professionalism they displayed in making WASP ready to put to sea.

It is with a great deal of admiration and pride that I welcome you to the Atlantic Fleet.

Sincerely,

POWELL F. CARTER, JR.
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Captain Leonard Picotte
PCO USS WASP (LHD 1)
C/O SUPSHIP Conversion and Repair
United States Navy
Pascagoula, MS 39568-2210



COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCE
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
NORFOLK VIRGINIA 23511-6282

Dear Captain Picotte,

Congratulations and best wishes to you and your superb crew on the commissioning of USS WASP (LHD 1).

The modern technology and increased amphibious lift capability the USS WASP brings to the Atlantic Fleet will provide a valuable asset to our warfare capability. Your ship, by virtue of her over-the-horizon assault capability and impressive combat systems suite, will be the new centerpiece of the amphibious task force.

Your crew has earned my sincere admiration for their tireless efforts in preparing USS WASP for active service. I am confident that the spirit and teamwork so evident in your precommissioning efforts will continue as you join the force.

On behalf of the Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, I extend to each member of the crew a hearty "welcome aboard." We are proud to have USS WASP as a member of our team.

Sincerely,

J. S. DONNELL III
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (SURFACE WARFARE)

Vice Admiral J. W. Nyquist, USN



THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
(SURFACE WARFARE)
Washington

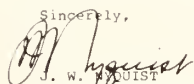
Dear Captain Picotte,

On behalf of the entire Surface Warfare community, it is my pleasure to congratulate you and your crew on the commissioning of USS WASP (LHD 1).

WASP is the most capable amphibious warship ever built. Her aviation, command and control and amphibious lift capabilities vastly exceed that of her predecessors. The advanced technology built into WASP is the finest America has to offer.

You and your crew have already invested long hours of concentrated effort to make the Navy's newest warship ready for service in the fleet. As you hone your skills and build upon your experience, your teamwork and expertise in setting a standard of excellence will give this warship her personality, vitality and reputation.

I congratulate you on the occasion of this commissioning and cheer your progress as WASP proudly joins the fleet.

Sincerely,

J. W. NYQUIST
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

Captain Leonard F. Picotte, USN
Prospective Commanding Officer
WASP (LHD 1)
Pascagoula, MS 39568-2210

COMMANDER NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND

Vice Admiral P. M. Hekman, Jr., USN



COMMANDER, NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND
WASHINGTON, DC 20362-5101


Dear Captain Picotte,

Congratulations to you and your outstanding crew on the commissioning of USS WASP.

Having sailed with you during Builder's Trials, I have seen firsthand the magnificent warfighting capability that WASP, the tenth ship to bear this proud name, will bring to the Navy and Marine Corps team. She is an extremely valuable asset and will be an effective instrument of seapower in our nation's defense. I have complete confidence in the dedicated crew of professionals which you lead and their ability to meet the challenges ahead.

I express my sincere appreciation to you and the crew for your dedicated and tireless efforts in preparing WASP for commissioned service. I am confident the high spirit and team effort displayed during WASP's construction will continue "Full Speed Ahead."

Please extend to each member of the crew my hearty "Welcome Aboard." We will be proud to have WASP as a member of our Navy.

Sincerely,

P. M. HEKMAN, JR.
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

Captain Leonard F. Picotte, USN
Prospective Commanding Officer
USS WASP (LHD 1)
Pascagoula, MS 39568-2210

COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP TWO

Rear Admiral G. E. Whisler, Jr., USN



COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON TWELVE

Captain T. S. Treanor, USN



Dear Captain Picotte,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome WASP as the newest member of Amphibious Group TWO. Our amphibious forces of the future must be multi-mission ships capable not only of conducting traditional amphibious operations, but also providing over-the-horizon assault capabilities. WASP meets this demand and will be the ship that takes our amphibious forces into the 21st Century. Your ability to operate the Landing Craft Air Cushion and a wide variety of aircraft, both rotary and fixed wing make you our most formidable assault platform. Additionally, you bring to the amphibians one of the most sophisticated command, control, communications and intelligence suites in the Navy today.

The name WASP carries a proud tradition of excellence earning numerous battle stars during World War II and playing an active role in this nation's early space program. Your challenge will be to continue this tradition of excellence.

No one is more important to a ship than her first crew and on this, the most important day in a ship's life, I extend my sincere congratulations and express my utmost thanks for the way in which you and your fine crew have prepared WASP for entry into the fleet.

Sincerely,
G. E. Whisler, Jr.
G. E. WHISLER, JR.
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

Captain L. F. PICOTTE, USN
PCO WASP (LHD-1)
Pascagoula, MS 39568-2210



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON TWELVE
NAVAL STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511-6094

Captain Leonard F. Picotte, USN
PCO WASP (LHD 1)
Pascagoula, MS 39568-2210

Dear Captain Picotte,

On behalf of the entire COMBIBRON TWELVE staff, I extend my best wishes to you and your crew on the occasion of the commissioning of the USS WASP (LHD 1).

As the tenth ship to bear the name WASP, you have a great Naval tradition to uphold. You and your crew have invested long hours of concentrated effort to make the Navy's newest warship ready for service in the fleet and a very valued addition to my team. As your ship and crew perform, WASP will develop a reputation that will endure over her years of service, and I am confident you will meet every challenge in true Navy fashion.

It is true pleasure that I welcome WASP to my squadron and the fleet. May she serve our Navy and country with distinction.

T. S. Treanor
T. S. TREANOR
Captain, U.S. Navy

PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

General Alfred M. Gray, USMC



General Alfred M. Gray is the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.

Born in Rahway, New Jersey, General Gray enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1950. He served overseas with FMF, Pacific, attaining the rank of sergeant before being commissioned a second lieutenant in April 1952. Early tours included service with the 11th and 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division in Korea, the 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Headquarters Marine Corps,

Washington, D.C., during which he saw service in Guantanamo Bay and Vietnam.

As a major, General Gray joined the 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division, Vietnam in October 1965, serving concurrently as regimental communications officer, regimental training officer, and artillery aerial observer. He took command of the Composite Artillery Battalion and U.S. Free World Forces at Gio Linh in April 1967. In September 1967, General Gray was reassigned to the III Marine Amphibious Force in Da Nang where he commanded the 1st

Radio Battalion elements throughout I Corps until February 1968. Following a brief tour in the United States, he returned to Vietnam from June to September 1969 in conjunction with surveillance and reconnaissance matters in the I Corps area.

After his Vietnam tour, General Gray served as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 2d Marines; Battalion Landing Team 1/2; the 2d Marines; the 4th Marines; and Camp Commander of Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan. While commanding the 33d Marine Amphibious Unit and Regimental Landing Team-4, and concurrently serving as Deputy Commander, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, General Gray directed the Southeast Asia evacuation operations in 1975.

Advanced to brigadier general in March 1976, General Gray served as Commanding General, Landing Force Training Command, Atlantic, and the 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade. Promoted to major general in February 1980, he assumed command of the 2d Marine Division, FMF, Atlantic, Camp Lejeune, N.C., in June 1981. Following his promotion to lieutenant general on Aug. 29, 1984, he was reassigned as Commanding General, FMF, Atlantic/Commanding General, II MAF, and Commanding General, FMF, Europe. General Gray was promoted to general and became Commandant of the Marine Corps on July 1, 1987.

He is married to the former Jan Goss of Burlington, Vermont.

TRADITION OF THE SPONSOR

Mrs. Diane Wilcox Lawrence is WASP's sponsor. She is the wife of Vice Admiral William P. Lawrence, USN (R).

It is believed that the spirit of the sponsor enters the ship at the christening, and remains there for the life of the ship. The spirit helps the ship face the dangers of the sea.

Until the middle of the 19th century, U.S. Navy ships were christened by men. On 22 August 1846, the first woman ever to sponsor a Navy ship, Mrs. Lavinia Watson Fanning, christened the sloop of war GERMAN TOWN, at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Since then, women have always christened Navy ships.

Mrs. Lawrence, a native of Pennsylvania, received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology from the University of Arkansas and a Masters Equivalent Degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Pennsylvania. She is Co-owner and Director of Rehab, Inc., a multidisciplinary physical rehabilitation agency. The Lawrence's have four children and currently reside in Annapolis, Maryland.



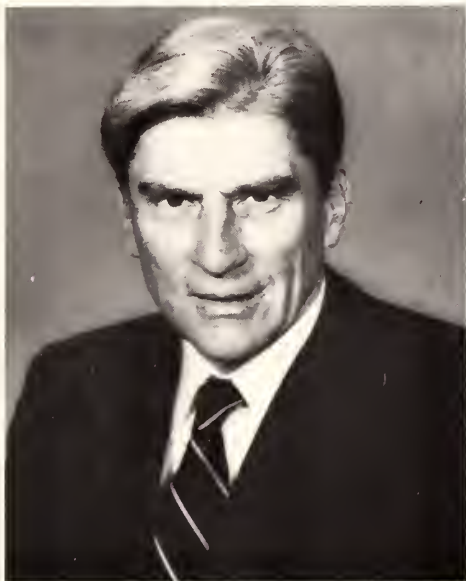
To the Men of WASP:

The nine ships that have earlier borne this name have honored our country with courage and distinction. You who serve in the tenth WASP, the first of a new class of magnificent ships, will continue a heritage of eminence and acclaim as you advance the case and commitment of our Country and our Navy.

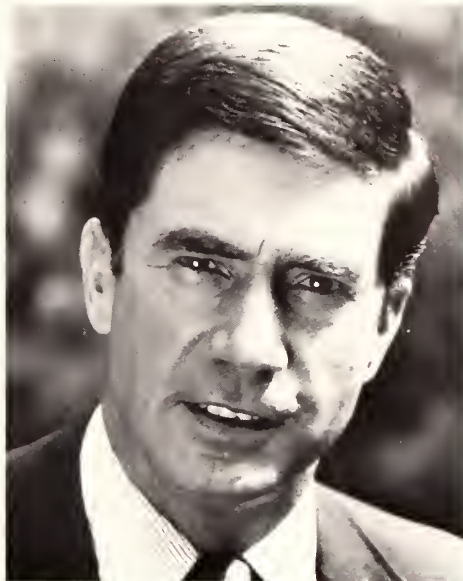
I am proud to be a part of this historic moment and wish you accomplishment, noble performance and pride of work. May God bless you all.

Diane Wilcox Lawrence

HONORARY COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Senator John W. Warner



Senator Charles S. Robb



ADM Maurice F. Weisner,
USN



GEN P. X. Kelley, USMC
(Ret.)



VADM William P. Lawrence,
USN (Ret.)

USS WASP COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE

Front row, L-R

Joe Hunley
Carol Melatti
Chela Williams
COL Jim Pendergast
COL Lee Starkey (USA-Ret.)

Back row, L-R

COL Edward Condra (USMC-Ret.)
Susan Coe
Craig Rahl
Jim Milligan
Julian Hirst
Joseph Gianascoli



Front row, L-R

Jowe Penalosa
Kay Griggs
Arlene Fee
Don Williams
Nancy Creech
CAPT Jerry Hesse (USN-Ret.)

Back row, L-R

Jerry Nelinson
Kirk Hammaker (Co-chairman)
CDR Jack Barry (Co-chairman)
(USN-Ret.)
Charles Gifford
MCPON Bob Walker (USN-Ret.)
Bill Hearst



Photo not available

Irvine Hill
CAPT Benjamin Joyce (USN-Ret.)
MCPON William Plackett
(USN-Ret.)
Kathy Harris
CAPT Fred Ellis (USN-Ret.)
Casey Holtzinger

CHRISTENING



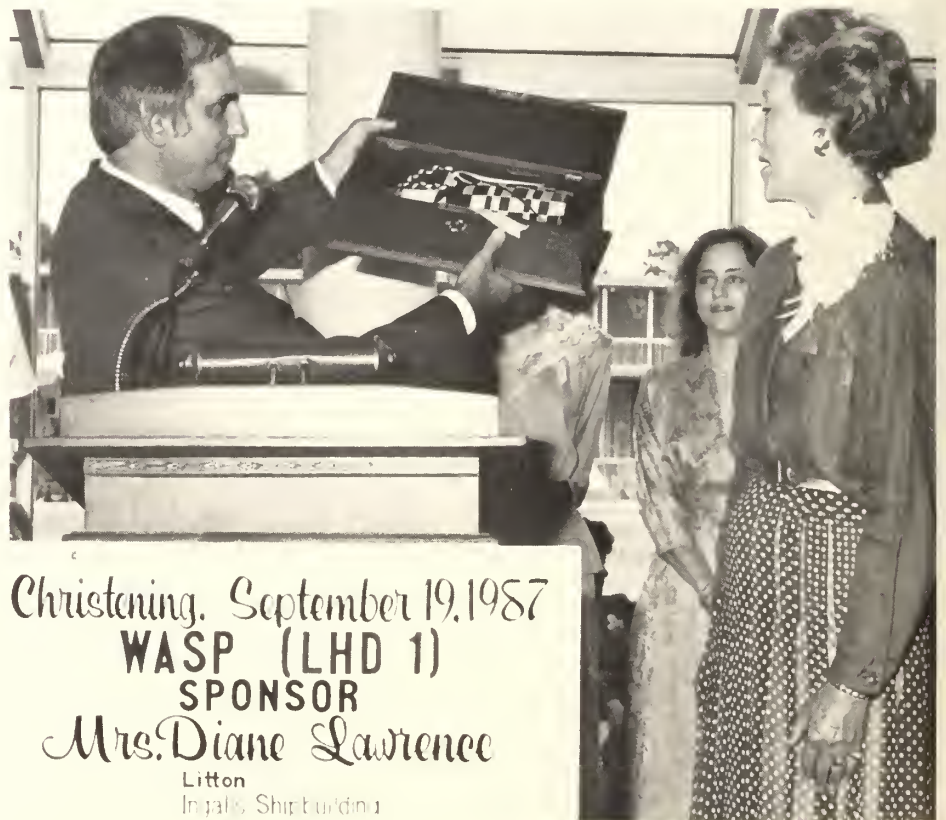
On Saturday, September 19, 1987, Wasp (LHD 1) was christened in ceremonies at Ingalls Shipbuilding division of Litton in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Mrs. Diane Wilcox Lawrence, wife of Retired Vice Admiral William P. Lawrence, a former Vice Chief of Naval Operations, was selected by the Navy as "Ship's Sponsor" for LHD 1, and broke the traditional bottle of champagne across the new ship's bow, officially naming her "WASP."

CHRISTENING

Vice Admiral Lawrence was principal speaker for the christening, and stated "Ships such as this, and the sailors and Marines who will sail in her, play a major role in the protection of the freedoms provided for all Americans by our Constitution. She is a quantum advancement in the amphibious warfare capability of our Navy and Marine Corps ... a credit to the Navy and to Ingalls Shipbuilding."

Captain Laurie Lawrence Deneke, a U.S. Army physician stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Mrs. Marguerite Cottrell Rauch, of North Starington, Connecticut, served as Matrons of Honor for the ceremony. Lieutenant Wendy B. Lawrence, a U.S. Navy helicopter pilot stationed in Belmont, Massachusetts, was Maid of Honor. Captain Deneke and Lieutenant Lawrence are daughters of Vice Admiral and Mrs. Lawrence. Mrs. Rauch is the couple's daughter-in-law.

Also participating in the christening, which was attended by more than 1,500 guests, were: Vice Admiral William F. McCauley, USN, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Lieutenant General Anthony Lukeman, USMC, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Military Manpower and Personnel Policy; Eugene Shoults, Amphibious Warfare and Strategic Sealift Program Manager, Naval Sea Systems Command; Captain Michael G. Simpson, USN, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, Pascagoula; and Jerry St. Pe', Senior Vice President of Litton and President of Ingalls Shipbuilding.



CONSTRUCTION

USS WASP (LHD 1) is the lead ship in a new class of multipurpose amphibious assault ships—the U.S. Navy/Marine Corps team's newest class of amphibious warships—being built by Ingalls Shipbuilding division of Litton in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Ingalls has been a major shipbuilder for the U.S. Navy and Merchant Marine fleets since 1938. The WASP Class, of which Ingalls has four ships under contract, is the sixth amphibious assault ship program in which Ingalls has been involved since the early 1950s. Most recently, the five ships of the TARAWA (LHA 1) Class were delivered to the Navy by Ingalls between 1976 and 1980. The TARAWA Class provided much of the baseline from which the design of the all-new WASP Class was developed.

The 844-foot long, 40,500-ton WASP was built utilizing efficient, Ingalls-pioneered preoutfitting and modular construction techniques. Those techniques were refined in the construction of LHD 1 to employ the most extensive engineering design and ship production coordination ever utilized in U.S. Navy

shipbuilding history. As a result of this design and production coordination, piping sections, ventilation ducting and other related shipboard hardware were installed in smaller subassemblies of the ship while those subassemblies were in the inverted position.

This early preoutfitting maximized 'downhand' rather than 'overhead' fitting and installation of shipboard hardware and allowed craftsmen easy access to their production work areas, which, in the conventional shipbuilding process, would be deep within the completed ship hull. The preoutfitted subassemblies were then joined with others to form assemblies, which were welded together to form completed hull modules. Major machinery items, such as main propulsion equipment, generators and electrical panels, were then installed during the modular assembly period.

LHD 1 was built in four hull modules and one superstructure module which were joined together on land to form the completed ship's hull prior to launch. This early

Continued



Gerald J. St. Pe
*Senior Vice President
Litton Industries*

Gerald J. St. Pe is a corporate senior vice president of Litton and president of the Ingalls Shipbuilding division in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

A native of New Orleans, Mr. St. Pe joined Ingalls in 1961 in the public relations department. He subsequently assumed responsibility for press relations.

In 1975 he was named division vice president for industrial and public relations. In 1985, he was promoted to division president and elected a corporate vice president. Mr. St. Pe was elected a senior vice president of the corporation in 1986.

Mr. St. Pe attended Loyola University in New Orleans, majoring in journalism. He also held a variety of reporting and management responsibilities with newspapers in Louisiana and Mississippi.

He is a founder and board member of the Jackson County (Miss.) Economic Development District and serves as a member of the Executive Board of the Shipbuilders Council of America.

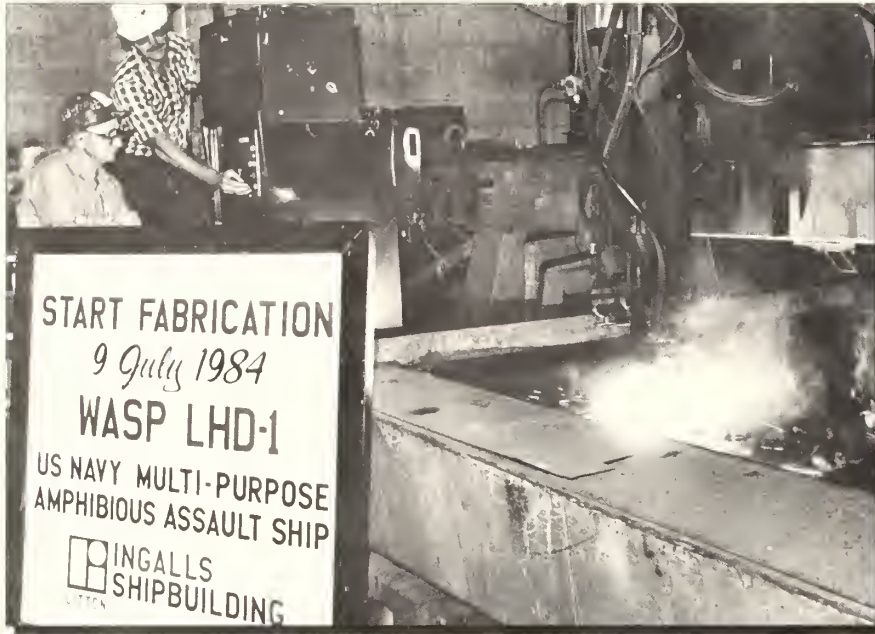


COL Eugene E. Shoults,
USMC-Ret.
Program Manager, Amphibious Warfare and Strategic Sealift Program (PMS 377)



CAPT R. Bruce Woodruff
*Supervisor of Shipbuilding Conversion and Repair, USN
Pascagoula, Mississippi*

CONSTRUCTION

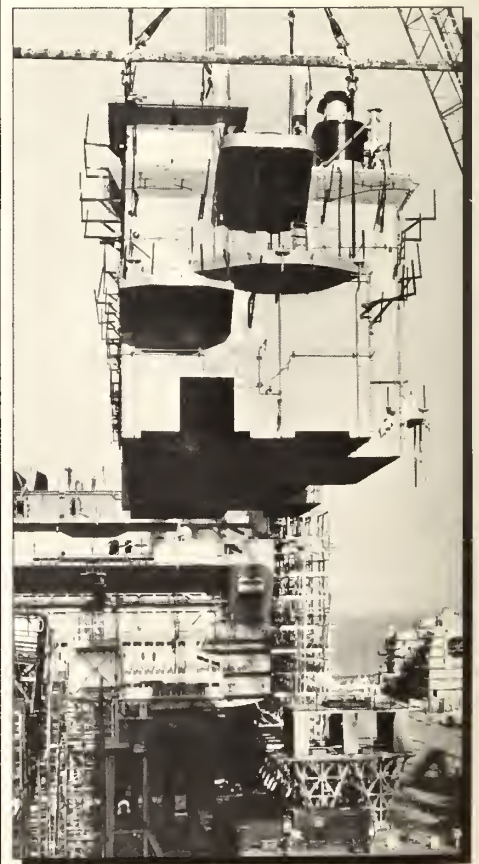
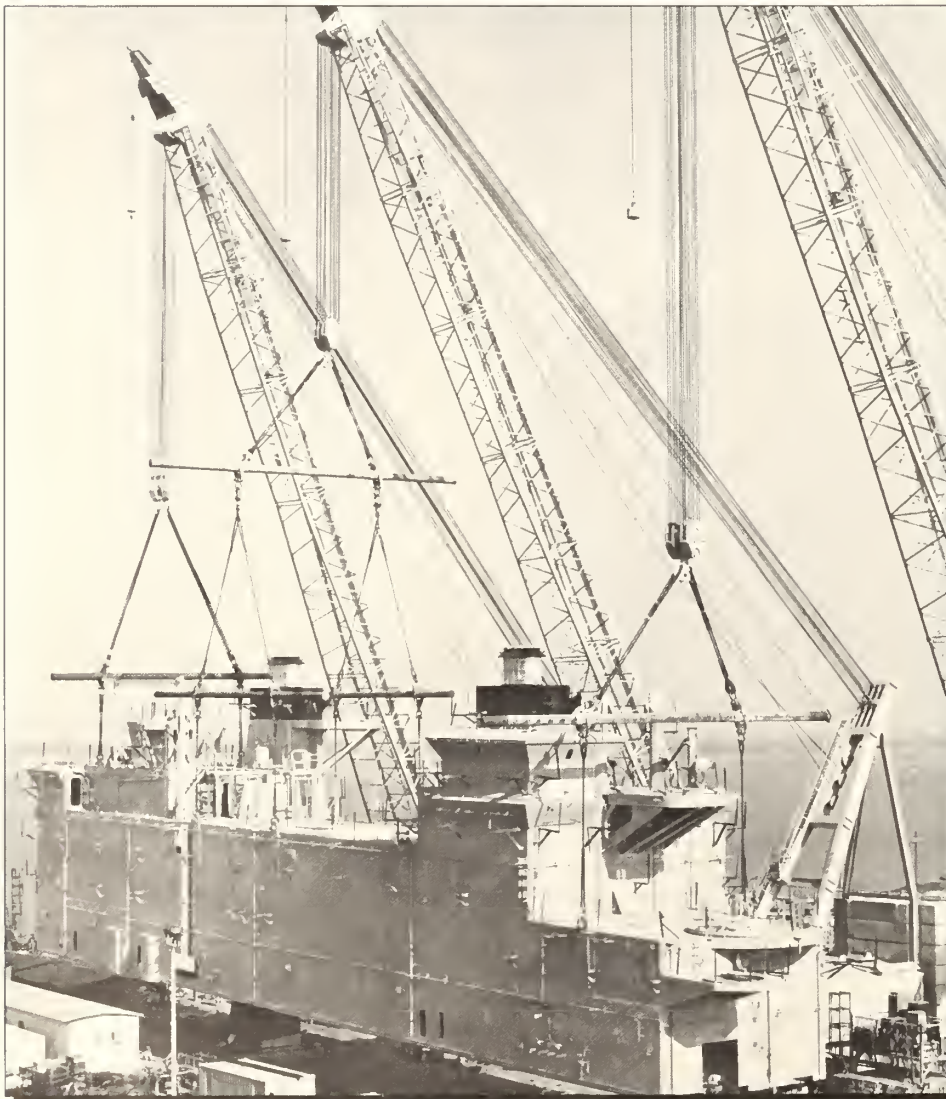


outfitting and modular construction resulted in a ship nearly 70 percent complete when launched on August 4, 1987.

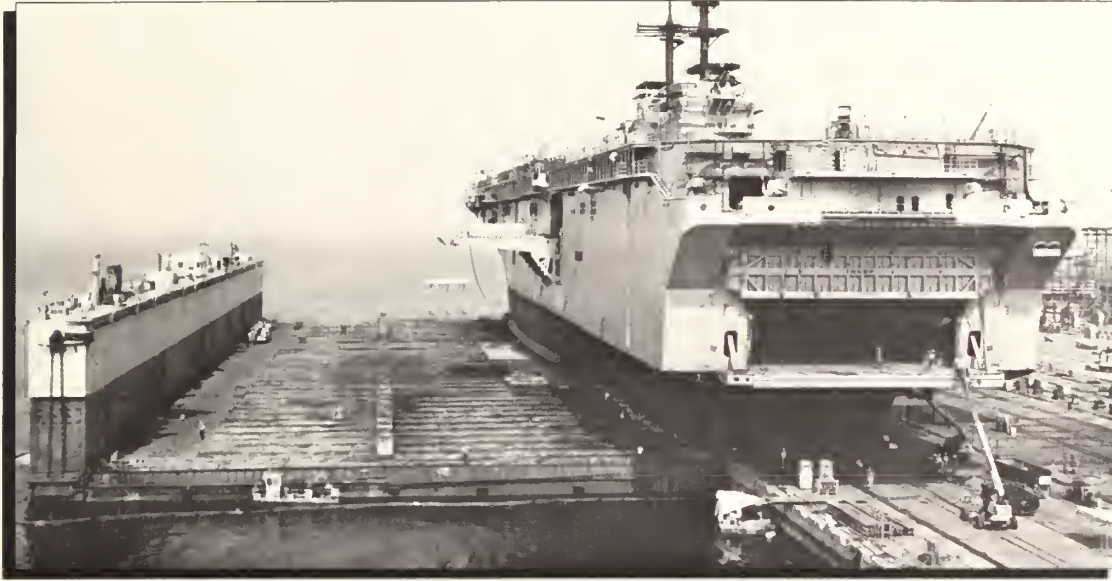
That launch was just as innovative as the ship's construction. LHD 1 was rolled from her construction area to Ingalls' floating drydock for launch on a rail transfer system. That move—26,382 tons of ship, transfer equipment and associated launch cradles—established a new world record as the heaviest man-made structure ever rolled over land.

The ship's move complete, the drydock was positioned over a deep water pit, ballasted down so that the ship floated free. Following launch, LHD 1 was guided to her outfitting pier for christening, for outfitting and testing in preparation for sea trials and delivery.

When delivered to the Navy on May 5, 1989, WASP became the fifty-second warship delivered by Ingalls since 1975.

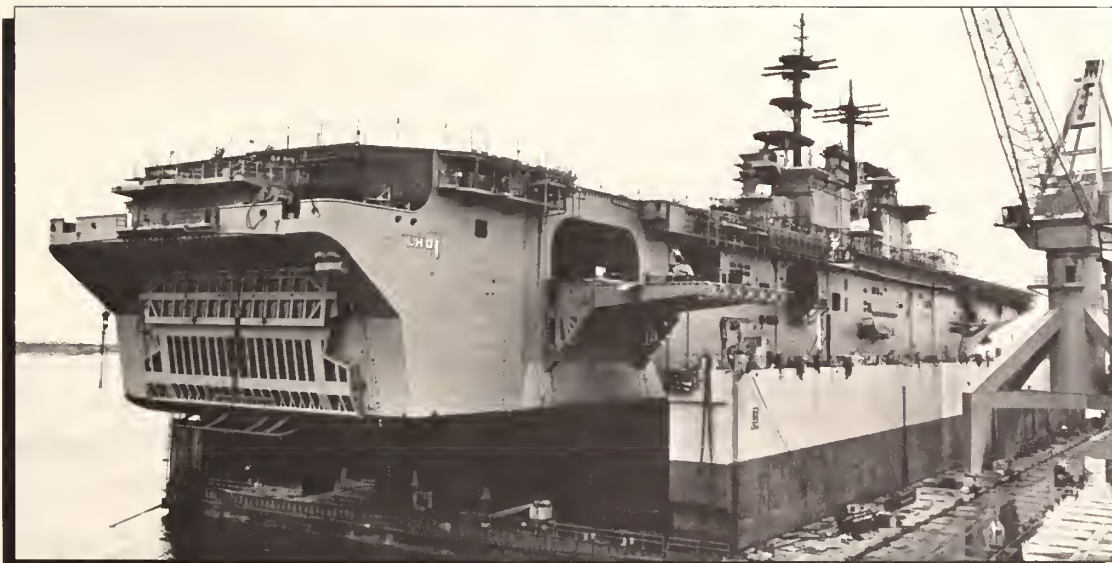


CONSTRUCTION



LHD 1 begins her translation to Ingalls' drydock for launch...

translation complete...



ready for launch!

HARD AT WORK ABOARD USS WASP

Painters Willie Steward, left, and Johnny Terrell in Engine Room Number One.



Test Engineer Brig Avery in Engine Room One.



Riggers Claude Nettles, right, and James Ross during the Anchor Handling Demonstration.



Maintenance Translation Supervisor Herman Bass "flips the switch," moving translation cars under Module Three for its westward roll in the ship integration area.





Electrician Donna Smith, foreground, with Electronic Display Technicians Mark Weinketz, center, and Robert Cottrell in the Combat Information Center (CIC).

Facilities Engineer J. A. Fraiser Jr. checks drydock alignment.



Even though she wouldn't be christened "WASP" until September, Painter Mark Mills has already given LHD 1 her name—on the newly installed stern gate.

197 YEARS OF WASP

SCORPION, a merchant schooner built at Baltimore, was purchased by the Continental Navy late in 1775. With HORNET it was the first ship of the Navy to go to sea on 14 January 1776. WASP supported the first amphibious assault, the capture of Nassau in the Bahamas in March of that year. WASP captured the brig BETSY and three other prizes in 1776. In an unsuccessful engagement in November 1777, WASP was run aground and destroyed in Delaware Bay to prevent capture.



The second WASP, a sloop of war constructed in 1806 at the Washington Navy Yard, was commissioned sometime in 1807. WASP's movements in 1807 and 1808 remain unrecorded; but by 1809, she was cruising the eastern seaboard of the United States. Her single action of war came in October 1812. WASP and HBM brig FROLIC, a 22-gun sloop-of-war, closed to do battle. In a short, but sharp fight, both ships sustained heavy damage but WASP prevailed. Unfortunately for the gallant little ship, a British 74-gun ship-of-the-line, POICTIERS, appeared on the scene, and

FROLIC's captor became the final prize of the action. WASP served briefly in the Royal Navy as PEA-COCK but was lost off the Virginia capes in 1813.



The third WASP, a schooner built in 1810 at Baltimore, Md. Her owners sold her to a group of businessmen who outfitted and armed her with a long 9-pounder and then chartered her to the U.S. Navy as a dispatch boat during the summer of 1813. On 1 October 1813, she was sold at auction at Baltimore.

The fourth WASP, a sloop chartered on Lake Champlain late in the summer of 1813. WASP saw no combat. She was returned to her owners early in 1814 and her battery was transferred.

The fifth WASP, a ship-rigged sloop-of-war carried twenty 32 pound cannonades. Commissioned in 1814, WASP captured her first prize on 2 June. After three more prizes WASP engaged the British sloop of war REINDEER. After trading fire for 19 minutes, WASP prevailed and boarded the REINDEER. In September 1814 WASP attacked the brig AVON, but was driven away by two larger British ships. AVON later sank. WASP would eventually capture eight more ships before disappearing in a storm in October 1814.

EMMMA HENRY, an iron-hulled side-wheel steamer, was captured at sea in December of 1864. On 13 June 1865, while undergoing repairs, she was renamed WASP. Her duty consisted of transporting diplomats and generally watching out for American interests. She continued to be so employed until



1775 - 1989

surveyed early in 1876. Decommissioned that same spring, WASP was sold on 5 June 1876.

COLUMBIA, a steam yacht built in 1898, was acquired by the Navy, renamed WASP, and was commissioned 11 April 1898. WASP supported a landing near Cabanas, Cuba the first landing of American troops in Cuba in the Spanish American War on 12 May 1899. On 21 July WASP engaged the Spanish cruiser DON JORGE JUAN, and



rine I-19, churned inexorably closer. Two torpedoes smacked home in quick succession followed by a third while a fourth passed ahead. Both hit in the vicinity of gasoline tanks and magazines. She sank at 2100 by the bow. WASP received two battle stars for her World War II service.

with their other ships, sank the cruiser in 58 minutes of firing. After the war, WASP served primarily as a training ship until 1917 when it joined Squadron 8, Patrol Force, steaming off Long Island. Finally it was decommissioned in 1919.

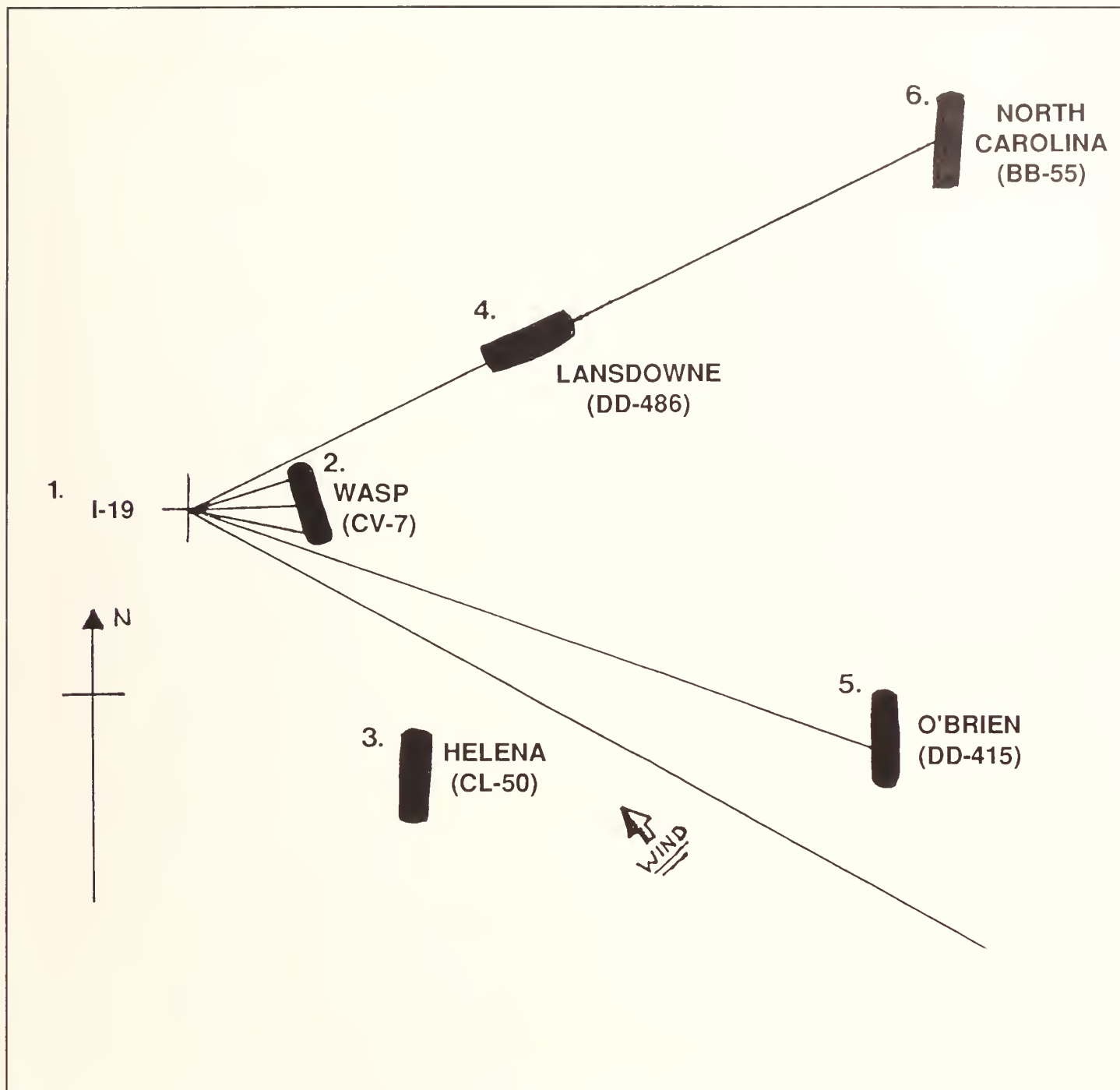
The eighth WASP (CV-7) was commissioned on 25 April 1940. In early 1942, WASP participated in the reinforcement of Malta, delivering British Spitfire aircraft to that beleaguered island fortress. In June of that same year, WASP and her escorts transited the Panama Canal and became TF 18. At 1445, on the 15th of September, a lookout called out, "three torpedoes...three points forward of the starboard beam!" A spread of four torpedoes, fired from the tubes of the Japanese subma-



197 YEARS OF WASP




The WASP burned for over five hours after three torpedoes struck the ship. Since the illumination of the burning WASP could disclose the location of other American ships in the area, the USS LANSLOWNE delivered the *coup de grace* and the WASP sank to her ocean grave at 2100, 15 September 1942.



TORPEDOING CHART

1. Estimated position of Japanese I-19 submarine; firing time: 1445.
2. Carrier WASP struck on starboard side by three torpedoes.
3. Crewmen on the U.S.S. HELENA witness the wake of a torpedo, estimated at a course of 060°.
4. A watch on the U.S.S. LANSDOWNE spotted the wake of a torpedo directly under the ship.
5. U.S.S. O'BRIEN struck by fifth torpedo.
6. U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA hit by the same torpedo that missed the LANSDOWNE.



U.S.S.
WASP
1940

HISTORY OF CVS-18



CV-18



CVS-18

The ninth WASP (CV-18) was laid down as ORISKANY on 18 March 1942 at Quincy, Massachusetts, by the Bethlehem Steel Company; renamed WASP in November 1942; the ship was launched on 17 August 1942. USS WASP CV-18 was commissioned on 24 November 1942, Captain Clifton A. F. Sprague commanding.

After fitting out and training exercises, WASP entered Pacific water. In June, 1944, WASP aircraft provided close air support for amphibious landings on Saipan. Starting on the 20th of June, WASP participated in the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot," destroying Japanese naval air power.

WASP continued service in the Pacific theater, participating with fast carrier task forces. Strikes against Iwo Jima, the Philippines, Okinawa, Formosa and support for amphibious landings at Leyte were some of the combat actions in the remainder of 1944.

On 16 February 1945, WASP fliers bombed targets near Tokyo and then returned to support the invasion of Iwo Jima. Aircraft from WASP assisted the Marines ashore before returning to attack targets in the Japanese Islands. In the seven days from 17 to 23 March, WASP

accounted for fourteen enemy planes in the air, destroyed six more on the ground and scored hits on two aircraft carriers, two battleships and a large cargo ship.

WASP ended the war attacking Japanese Island targets and was used as a troop transport until 1947. In 1948, the ship was converted to fly jet aircraft. In April, 1952, WASP collided with destroyer minesweeper HOBSON (DD-464), tearing a 75-foot sawtooth rip in the hull. The damage was repaired by fitting the bow of HORNET (CV-12), also under repair, to the forward part of WASP.

From 1953 to 1955, WASP operated in the Pacific before receiving an angled flight deck. WASP continued to operate in the Pacific during 1956 before returning to the East coast as an anti-submarine carrier, CVS-18. In 1958, WASP supported Marine landings in Lebanon and, in 1962, was part of the Cuban blockade.

In addition to being the centerpiece for anti-submarine defense groups in these years, WASP also became a mainstay of the early space program. WASP served as the recovery ship for the Gemini spacecraft— Gemini IV, Major James White and Major Edward McDivitt;

HISTORY OF CVS-18

Gemini VI, Captain Walter Schira and Major Thomas Stafford; Gemini VII, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Borman and Commander James Lovell; Gemini IX, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Stafford and Lieutenant Commander Eugene Cernan; and Gemini XII, Captain James Lovell and Major Cawin Aldrin. Gemini XII, in fact, landed within three miles of WASP.

In the late 1960s, WASP contin-

ued her anti-submarine role participating in a number of exercises in the Atlantic and Mediterranean and as part of NATO.

On 1 March 1972, it was announced that WASP (CVS-18) would be decommissioned and on 1 July 1972, the last WASP was stricken from the Navy list.

WASP earned eight battle stars for her World War II service.



MISSION



LCAC



AV-8B



CH-46E

By design, amphibious operations exploit the element of surprise and concentrate balanced forces at selected weak points to achieve a beachhead on the enemy's shore.

The capability to conduct successful tactical air and amphibious operations in the objective area is only possible with ships that have been specifically designed for the

mission. WASP gives the embarked Marine Expeditionary Unit the capability to perform its mission anywhere at anytime. The ability to conduct both helicopter and AV-8 operations while also conducting LCAC operations from a well deck makes WASP unique to the amphibious fleet.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Captain Leonard F. Picotte, born in Calumet, Michigan, enlisted in the Navy in 1957 and served on the USS SANSFIELD (DD 837). He graduated from Northern Michigan University in June 1963 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics and following the OCS Program at Newport, R.I., he received his commission the same year. He served on board the USS HORNET (CVS 12) as Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer and Gunnery Officer, and then aboard the USS HAMMERBURG (DE 1015) as Main Propulsion Assistant. In June of 1967 he attended Naval Destroyer School at Newport before serving as Weapons Officer of USS PRICHETT (DD 561).

From 1969-1971, Captain Picotte was assigned as Assistant Cruiser/Destroyer Placement Officer with the Bureau of Naval Personnel. He then assumed command of USS MARATHON (PG 89) and operated with River Division 115 in Vietnam. Following this tour, he attended San Diego State University obtaining an MA in political science in June 1975. He subsequently graduated from Armed Force Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

Returning to sea duty, Captain Picotte served as Executive Officer of USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD 31). From 1978-1980, he was Executive Officer and then Officer in Charge of Surface Warfare Officers' School in Coronado, Calif. After his tour at SWOS, he served for six months as Executive Officer, Naval Station, San Diego, before reporting to USS ALAMO (LSD 33)



for duty in June 1980 as Commanding Officer. He completed that tour in June 1982 and returned to Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C., for duty as the Surface Warfare Commander Detailer. He then attended the Naval War College, Senior Course in Newport, R.I. from which he graduated in June 1985.

Captain Picotte's next assignment was Commanding Officer, USS

DULUTH (LPD 6) until February 1988.

Captain Picotte's decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Captain Picotte and his wife, Sandra Whiteley Picotte, of Pawtucket, R.I., reside in Norfolk, Virginia.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Born in Lakewood, Ohio, Captain Keith H. Larson is a graduate of Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio, and was commissioned an ensign upon completion of Officers' Candidate School (OCS), Newport, R.I., in June 1967.

Initial sea tours included duty aboard USS THADDEUS PARKER (DE 369) and USS THOMAS J. GARY (DER 326). After completing the Navy Destroyer School, Department Head Course, he reported to the Pre-Commissioning crew of USS BOWEN (FF 1079) as Weapons Officer where he remained until April 1973.

He then returned to the Navy's renamed Surface Warfare Officers' School (SWOS) where he taught department heads and Prospective Commanding Officer/Prospective Executive Officer students. Following this assignment, he attended the Naval War College, Command Staff Course, from which he graduated in June 1976.

Subsequent sea tours have included Assistant Surface Operations and Material Officer for Cruiser Destroyer Group 12,

Executive Officer, USS LAWRENCE (DDG 4), and Commanding Officer, USS GALLERY (FFG 26). Captain Larson reported to the Pre-Commissioning crew USS WASP (LHD 1) as Executive Officer in July 1988.

In shore duty billets, he has served as Executive Officer, Naval Recruiting District, Peoria, Ill., and on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, Tactical Readiness Division (OP 953E).

His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (with gold star in lieu of second award) and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Captain Larson is married to the former Judith Ann Conger, of Lexington, Tennessee. The Larsons have one son and reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF



HTCM (SW) Jorge A. Lopez, was born and raised in Laredo, Texas. He is a graduate of Martin High School and entered the Navy in July 1962.

Initial sea tours included duty aboard USS ELKHORN (AOG 7), USS MARS (AFS 1), and RIVERENE Force Vietnam. He then went to recruiting duty at Naval Recruiting District Albuquerque, N. M. USS JASON (AR 8), Staff Damage Control, Commander, Naval Air Force, Pacific and USS DULUTH (LPD 6). His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (with three gold stars),

Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Good Conduct Medal (6th), Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Award, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Vietnam Meritorious Service.

Master Chief Lopez is married to the former Etsuko Nakyama, of Nagasaki, Japan. The Lopez's have a son and a daughter and reside in Chula Vista, California.

DEPARTMENT HEADS



CDR Edward A. Banek
AIMD



CDR Ludvig K. Tande
AIR



CAPT John R. Smith
COMBAT CARGO



LT Carl S. Barbour
COMBAT SYSTEMS



LCDR Richard A. Lodge
CHAPLAIN



LT James W. Grubbs
COMMUNICATIONS



LT Eugene M. Mitchell
1st LT DECK



LT Kevin L. Weber
DENTAL



CDR James H. Hanson
ENGINEERING



LTJG Dwayne A. Vanderwall
EXECUTIVE



LT Robert A. Whisnant
MEDICAL



LCDR Paul Viscovich, Jr.
NAVIGATION



CDR Kendall J. King
OPERATIONS



LT Robert E. Lucas
SAFETY



CDR James W. Hargrove
SUPPLY

SHIP'S OFFICERS



ENS Andy W. Frazier
AIMD
Assistant AIMD Officer



CW02 Donald McClellon
AIMD
AC Material Officer



LCDR Ronald B. Luhmann
AIR
Assistant Air Officer



LT Barry F. Dagnall
AIR
Aircraft Handling
Officer



LT Edward E. Mills
AIR
Aviation Fuels Officer



LT Walter E. Schumann
AIR
Hanger Deck Officer



LT James Seaborn
AIR
Flight Deck Officer



CW02 John Henry B.
Mireles
AIR
A/C Handling Officer



LT John I. Shannon
COMBAT SYSTEMS
Ordnance Officer



LTJG James A. Williams
COMBAT SYSTEMS
Assistant Combat
Systems Officer



ENS Andy C. Garlington
COMBAT SYSTEMS
Electronic Warfare
Officer



CW04 William M. Johnson
COMBAT SYSTEMS
Weapons Officer



**CAPT Donald F.
Biedermann, Jr.**
COMMUNICATIONS
MTCCS Officer in Charge



ENS Thomas G. Halvorson
COMMUNICATIONS
Signals Division Officer



ENS Glen N. Scott
COMMUNICATIONS
Radio Communications
Officer



ENS Douglas L. Sickler
COMMUNICATIONS
Message Center Division
Officer



LT Marshal Weathers
DECK
Assistant Deck Officer



ENS Joscelyn E. Smith
DECK
First Division Officer



CW03 Charles E.
Watzlavick
DECK
Ship's BOSN



LCDR Richard E. Chamblee
ENGINEERING
DCA



LT Thomas J. Malone
ENGINEERING
MPA



LT Michael H. Stewart
ENGINEERING
Electrical Officer



LTJG Michael F. O'Connell
ENGINEERING
Auxiliary Officer



ENS Bruce D. Caspers
ENGINEERING
Assistant DCA

SHIP'S OFFICERS



ENS Lary M. Jutras
ENGINEERING
Engineering Admin.
Officer



ENS Stephen C. Pearson
ENGINEERING
E Division Officer



ENS Kevin M. Prior
ENGINEERING
A Division Officer



ENS Donald A. Sewell
ENGINEERING
Main Propulsion Officer



ENS Desmond N. Smith
ENGINEERING
R Division Officer



ENS James K. Apling
EXECUTIVE
Security Officer



LT Benjamin G. Feril
MEDICAL
Medical Admin. Officer



MAJ Kevin P. Janowsky
OPERATIONS
Air Operations Officer



LCDR James F. Ball
OPERATIONS
Intelligence Officer



LCDR Robert T. Soper
OPERATIONS
Electronic Material
Officer



LT Edwin F. Williamson
OPERATIONS
Special Signals Officer



LT Edmond M. Frost
OPERATIONS
Oceanographic Officer



LT Matthew Sturges
OPERATIONS
HDC Officer



LT Scott M. Carlson
OPERATIONS
CIC Officer



ENS James P. Steil
OPERATIONS
Assistant CIC Officer



CW04 Kenneth W. Fabian
OPERATIONS
Assistant Intelligence
Officer



LCDR Paul D. Workman
SUPPLY
Assistant Supply Officer



LT Frank A. Lindell
SUPPLY
Stock Control Officer



LT Charles H. Meyer
SUPPLY
Sales Officer



ENS Keith Anderson
SUPPLY
Wardroom Officer



ENS Peter S. Black
SUPPLY
Disbursing Officer



ENS Craig A. Henderson
SUPPLY
Food Service Officer



CWO2 John R.
Buddenhagen
SUPPLY
Data Processing Officer

Special Mission Selections
CINCLANTFLT WARD
Norfolk, Virginia

★ ★ ★

Arrival of Official Party

★ ★ ★

Invocation

Lieutenant Commander Richard A. Lodge, CH/USN
Chaplain, USS WASP (LHD-1)

★ ★ ★

Remarks

Distinguished Platform Guests

★ ★ ★

Introduction of Principal Speaker

★ ★ ★

Principal Address

General Alfred M. Gray, Jr., USMC
Commandant of the Marine Corps

★ ★ ★

Reading of the Commissioning Directive

Vice Admiral J. S. Donnell III, USN
Commander Naval Surface Force
U.S. Atlantic Fleet

★ ★ ★





Reading of Orders
Captain Leonard F. Picotte, USN

★ ★ ★

Setting the First Watch
Captain Keith H. Larson, USN

★ ★ ★

Manning the Ship

★ ★ ★

Coming Alive

★ ★ ★

Commanding Officer's Remarks
Captain Leonard F. Picotte, USN

★ ★ ★

Benediction
Lieutenant Commander Richard A. Lodge, CH, USN
Chaplain, USS WASP (LHD-1)

★ ★ ★

Departure of Official Party

★ ★ ★

General Visiting

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

HTCM (SW) Jorge A. Lopez

LCN John W. Murray

NCCS (SW) Bruce W. Cobb

YNC James E. Greathouse

PNCM (SW) Charles L. Claybourn



Front Row, L-R

RP1 David Trejo

PCSR Alan Puzio

YN3 Robert M. Edens

PC2 Larry D. Simmons

LI1 Walton B. Westerfield

Back Row, L-R

SR Williams

JOSN Michael J. Buckingham

JO1 Jerry Foster

RP3 Tony L. Mar

PCSA Thomas J. Rafferty



Front Row, L-R

PN2 Torrence M. Lamb

PNSA Paul A. Trujillo

PNSN Jackson

YNSA Scott C. Neumann

PN1 (AW) Issacc Knox

Back Row, L-R

MA2 Richart T. Andreyo

MA1 Vern Bergeson

NC1 (AW) David Sanders

PNSR Juan Flores



NAVIGATION DEPARTMENT • NAVIGATION DIVISION



QMC (SW) William W. Hinds



Front Row, L-R
QMSA Rodrigues
QM3 Quinn
QUSN Ouzts

Back Row, L-R
QM2 (SW) Bryant C. Brookins
QM1 (SW) Dexter Walker
QMSA Ramone K. Lee
QM2 (SW) Wayne J. Haws

MEDICAL / DENTAL DEPARTMENTS

L-R

HMC James W. McGuire
HMCS (SW) Charles T. Price



L-R

DT1 William A. Mann
DA James H. Williams
DT1 Neil C. Fillingim



Front Row, L-R

HN Douglas A. Brian
HM3 John Delacruz
HM3 William N. Wolfinger
HM3 Ralph L. Willoughby
HM3 Adam N. Casborn
HM3 John V. Verdidiano

Back Row, L-R

HM3 Rowland K. Owens
HM2 Darrell D. Trumbule
HM2 Eugene A. Squicciarini
HM1 Karl T. Kelly
HM3 Terrance Anderson
HM3 Roland D. Schilling



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT • CR / CS DIVISIONS



L-R

SMC Millard A. Thompson
RMC Richard D. Rose
GYSGT Michael E. McKinney
RMCM Peter P. Cartell



Front Row, L-R

RMSA Preston P. May
RMSA Carey R. Johnson
RM1 Bruce R. LaFave

Back Row, L-R

RM1 Ronnie J. Puryear
RM3 John G. Gurr
RMSR Steven E. Smith
RMSA Tommie Cleckley Jr.



Front Row, L-R

SM2 Eric T. Jackson
SM3 John D. Yanik
SMSA Daniel J. Kotula
SM3 Christopher J. Yanik
SM1 Perry J. Gordon

Back Row, L-R

SMSA Steven G. Brainerd
SMSA Malcolm F. King
SMSA William C. Henley
SMSA Joseph A. Neiser
SMSA Brian K. Gardner
SMSA Martin E. McDonough

CM DIVISION • COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

RMSA Gerold D. Wilson
RMSN Philip W. Faulkner
RMSA Timmy J. Mitchell
RMSA Derrick L. Luzader

Back Row, L-R

RMSN Roland A. Lane
RMSA Michael Clay
RMSN Shawn L. Smith
RMSA Todd J. Sladek



Front Row, L-R

RM1 James R. Vance
RM1 Sidney Wright
RM2 Adelardo Fragoso
RM3 Raymond Cunnikin

Back Row, L-R

RM3 Henry E. Farmer
RM1 Robert B. Harris
RM3 Darrell E. Brown
RM3 Kelvin A. Hann
RM3 Bret O. Henderson



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT • OA / OC DIVISIONS



Front Row, L-R

ETCS (SW) Joseph L. Hart
CTOC (AW/NAC) Donald F. Pagliaro
AGC John A. Yetsko
ISC (SW) Raymond A. Borah

Back Row, L-R

ETC Robert M. Wolke
OSC Dale B. Dewar
ETC George B. Hudson
OSCS Albert M. Greene
ETC (SW) Michael A. Boynton



L-R

AGAN Bradley B. Harper
AGAN Dean C. Jablonski
AG1 Fredrick Reynolds
AG1 Wayne D. Edwards
AG3 Michael H. Messersmith



L-R

ACAN Michael A. Ciavattone
AC2 Robert T. Williams
ACAA Stevens S. Shropshire
AC1 (SW) Rick A. Stein
AC2 David W. Leaser
ACAN Grischa M. Denmark

OE DIVISION • OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

ET1 Michael D. Wade
ET1 James D. Duncan
ET3 Joseph A. Kasperowski
ET3 William C. Martin
ET3 Tomas Santiago
ET3 Ralph A. Haney

Back Row, L-R

ET3 Paul J. Gandee
ET3 Michael D. McMillan
ET3 Denny L. Pinter
ET3 Daniel Hutchinson
ET3 Scott A. Housel



Front Row, L-R

ET3 Sylvester J. Maxie
ET2 Felipe Guadalupe
ET3 Steve D. Cornish
ET3 Neal F. Henk
ET3 Mark J. Solland

Back Row, L-R

ET3 Daniel L. Swindler
ET3 John A. Novitsky
ET2 Donald E. Reed
ET3 Joseph A. Patt
ET2 Joseph L. Patrick



L-R

ET3 William L. Steelsmith
ET3 Thomas E. Lawrence



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT • OI DIVISION



Front Row, L-R

OSSR Todd J. Robbins
OSSA Andre J. Clark
OSSR Paul R. Addington
OSSA Joseph W. Address
OS2 (SW) Mitchell M. Felipe

Back Row, L-R

OS1 Benny M. Anderson
OS3 Roland Gutierrez
OS3 Laveone W. Barnett
OSSA Charles J. Connors
OS2 Roland S. Winstead



Front Row, L-R

OSSN Angel L. Checo
OSSN George W. Grandstaff
OS2 Patrick J. Hodgson
OS2 Kim M. Simmons
OS1 John D. Poor

Back Row, L-R

OSSA Terrence Lopez
OSSA William P. Boldin
OSSA James W. Martin
OSSA Brad M. Averett
OSSR Frank A. Armstrong



Front Row, L-R

OSSA Daniel Fayard
OS3 Randall J. Wilson
OSSN Brian J. Goldsmith
OSSR Greg Wheeler
OSSR Miguel A. Diaz

Back Row, L-R

OS3 Donald L. Baker
OSSN Peter L. Kretowicz
OS1 Ricky J. Roberts
OS1 Gary M. Parker
OS3 Robert A. Cooper

OS DIVISION • OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

CTM2 Timothy N. Sullivan

CTOSN James W. Meeks

CTO1 Daniel S. Sites

CTO2 Douglas M. Main

Back Row, L-R

CTO2 James H. Michael

CTO3 Rinaldo W. Clark

CTM3 Robert McDuffie

CTR1 Alfred W. Littlejohn



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT • OZ DIVISION



L-R

PHAN Marshall B. Borgen
PH1 James E. Westfall
PH1 Michael S. Harrison
PHAA Jerry A. McKinney
PHAA Ricky W. West



Front Row, L-R

IS3 Corrigan
IS2 (SW) Craig L. Gilchrist
ISSN Charles B. Sowell
IS2 Christopher Hurst
IS1 Dale P. Wright

Back Row, L-R

ISSA Sean F. O'Conner
ISSN Chris M. Taylor
ISSA David A. Olson
IS1 Edward M. Bender
ISSN Donald L. Moore



Front Row, L-R

DPSA Joseph H. Hoechst
DP2 Starr G. Deuel
DPSA Nadine T. Betts
DM1 Norman R. Hermoso

Back Row, L-R

DPSR Jonathan D. Norris
DP2 Alfred J. Roessler
DP1 Peter E. Muller
EP1 Peter J. Steinberg
DPSR John E. Jacques

FIRST DIVISION • DECK DEPARTMENT

L-R

BMC (SW) Leroy A. Dunn
BMC (SW) Brian T. Rhodes



Front Row, L-R

BM1 (SW) Richard A. Marks
SA David G. Ford
SR Evans V. Wood
SA Troy S. Brown
SA Stanley M. Steele

Back Row, L-R

SA Michael J. Sobieraj
SA David McMath
SA David W. Andrews
SR Donnie L. Scogin
BM3 Allen C. Clark



DECK DEPARTMENT • FIRST DIVISION



Front Row, L-R

BM2 Raff L. Roundtree
SA Grover A. Huff
SR Brown
BM3 Jeffery N. Schmitt

Back Row, L-R

SN Robert J. Cavalier
SA Mark E. Harrell
SA Anderson
BM2 Elvis Buckhalter



Front Row, L-R

SA Richard Wright
SA Thomas
SA Tony E. Banks
BM2 Jeffrey S. Edwards
SA Jerry B. Plentl

Back Row, L-R

SA Keith A. Chambers
BM3 Keith B. Pegues
SA Terry W. Griffin
BM2 Robert R. Foster
SR Michael H. Johnson

SECOND DIVISION • DECK DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

SR Henery M. Harris
SA Gregory R. Delvecchio
SN Corey S. Gillespie
SA Travis C. Scott
SA Todd D. Connor

Back Row, L-R

SA Adel Villarreal
SA Antonio D. Britton
SA Michael D. Wilcox
SR Randall A. Scobie
SR William A. Oliver



Front Row, L-R

BM2 David G. McWatters
BM2 Victor V. Lugo
BMSN Hershell T. Cross
SA Phillip R. Hodges
BM3 Craig B. McLeroy
SR Michael B. Lee

Back Row, L-R

BM3 Charles E. Copley
BM2 Gregory Velez
SA Michael E. Landrum
BM2 Theodore W. Gricks
SR Kevin D. Hennix
BM3 Darin E. Barksdale



Front Row, L-R

SA Ivy P. Speight
SN Keith A. McKiver
SR Brian K. Worthy
SN Robert P. Jones
SA Clodold L. Beriau

Back Row, L-R

SA Luis A. Aviles
SA Thomas
SA Quinton T. Neal
SA Michael L. Davis
SA Charles R. Price



COMBAT SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT • CD DIVISION



Front Row, L-R

DSCS (SW) Albert J. Lavin
AOC (AW) Robert L.
Schackmuth
FCCS (SW) Billy L. Seltzer

Back Row, L-R

EWC (SW) Russell J.
Schwickert
FCC Arthur R. Dan
FCC Douglas A. Smith



Front Row, L-R

DS1 Gary L. Bair
DS3 Donald A. Lawhead
DS3 John W. Carls
DS1 John A. Kotusky
DC3 Reginal O. Moreland

Back Row, L-R

DS3 Bryan J. Perry
DS3 Patrick E. Loughridge
DS3 Kirk B. Payne
DS1 Kirk A. Snyder
DS1 John D. Goodell



Front Row, L-R

DS3 Michael G. Grove
DS1 Lawrence Desilets
DSSN Eloy Feliciano
DS3 Rosario Gambardella

Back Row, L-R

DS3 Richard T. Deason
DS3 Henry N. Wadsworth
DS3 Ralph E. Wilson
DS3 Kevin A. Fraser
DS3 Troy A. Kimble

CF / CG DIVISIONS • COMBAT SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

FC3 Jon L. Nash
FC3 Ronnie D. Whaley
FC3 Cliff T. Lincoln
FC3 Donald C. Murray
FC3 Londis Carpenter

Back Row, L-R

FC2 George C. Kock
FC1 Mark D. Headen
FC3 Benjamin J. Armstrong
FC1 Jon L. Schlegel
FC3 Philip D. Lilly



Front Row, L-R

FC3 Timothy D. Clark
FC2 (AW) Larry R. Daugherty
FC2 Paul J. Olivares
FC3 Daniel P. Alexander

Back Row, L-R

FC3 Gregory W. Ray
FC3 Steven E. Short
FC3 Robert B. Young
FC1 Elwell Weatherhead
FC3 Clint E. Dorminey



Front Row, L-R

GMG1 Linwood J. Page
AOAR Todd S. Marsalek
AOAA Malcom L. Hands
AO1 David F. Gore
AOAA Chad A. Hunt

Back Row, L-R

AO2 Henry Lapo Jr.
AO2 Benigno Pena
AO3 Joel B. Taylor
AOAR Phillip L. Rockenbaugh
AOAN Tommy Gilbert



COMBAT SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT • CG / CI DIVISIONS



Front Row, L-R

AOAA Felipe Trejo
AOAN Johnny L. Stevenson
AOAN Michael L. Marchang
GMGSA Willie McLoyd III

Back Row, L-R

AO2 (AW) Johnny C. Caddell
AO1 (AW) Michael E. Kolbek
AOAR Kelly J. Bohlen
GMC3 Donald R. Palmer



Front Row, L-R

EW3 Richard N. Ferreira
EW3 Robert A. Johnson
EW3 William C. Wise
EW3 James Vadino

Back Row, L-R

EW3 Brian W. Andrews
EW2 John R. Brewster
EW3 Richard W. Conrad
EW3 John C. Kowalski

V-1 DIVISION • AIR DEPARTMENT

L-R

ABFCS (AW) Reinhardt K. Martin
 ABCS (AW) Dobbs B. Dennis
 ABHC Michael P. McGearry



Front Row, L-R

ABH3 Charles Maldonado
 ABHAA Roger J. Robinson
 ABHAA Jimmy J. Olson
 AR Benjamin Gomez Jr.
 ABH1 James G. Proffitt

Back Row, L-R

ABH2 (AW) Dayl C. Carlson Jr.
 AN Dwayne M. Collins
 ABH1 Marvin G. Palmer
 AA Shawn C. Esser
 ABH2 Sylvester Robinson Jr.
 AR Mark I. Jones



Front Row, L-R

AR Jeffery J. Davids
 AR Michael A. Ness
 AR Mark A. Stover
 AR Michael J. LeVay
 ABHAN Craig L. Randle

Back Row, L-R

AR Davis V. Pressel
 AA Thomas R. Bolman
 ABHAA Charles R. Little Jr.
 AR Allen L. Moorehead
 AR Christopher Mullaney



AIR DEPARTMENT • V-1 / V-2 DIVISIONS



Front Row, L-R

ABHAN Scott T. Muncer
AA Dracy Peacock
AA Joel R. Ingold
AA Tommy D. Goldston
AA Jeffrey D. Anger

Back Row, L-R

AR Paul E. Evans
ABHAA Michael E. Oldham
ABHAA Ronnie P. Drury
AR Marshall R. Miller
ABHAN James J. Miller
ABHAN Darren Monroe
ABH3 Ricardo C. Kiner



Front Row, L-R

AR Robert E. Hutchings
ABHAR Aulama Lemalu
AA Sean H. Uythoven
AA Adrain T. Gilford

Back Row, L-R

ABHAN Jimmy P. Sturdivant
AA James E. Keefe
ABHAA Michael D. Peaslee
ABH3 Thaddeus L. Smith



Front Row, L-R

ABH2 James R. Miller
AA Dexter T. Thames
AN Jonathan M. Yovanno
AA Erbin A. Morales
AN Bryan S. Thomas

Back Row, L-R

ABHAA Kelvin Peterson
ABHAA Donnie W. Reliford
AA Jackson
AA Robert J. Cox
AA Joseph A. Reis
ABHAA James E. Robinson

V-3 / V-4 DIVISIONS • AIR DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

ABH1 Jose L. Barba
ABHAA Rodney K. Cox
AA Daniel J. Peter
AA Felix C. Johnson III
AA Alan E. Brooks

Back Row, L-R

ABHAA Robert L. Nicholas
ABHAA Darin J. Weiks
AR Tyrone M. Washington
ABHAA Arra McGee
AA Roderick D. Beasley



Front Row, L-R

AR Sidney D. Grant
ADF3 Kelvin Peters
AN Christopher S. Short
ABH2 Lawrence E. Adside
ABF2 Jesus C. Lozano

Back Row, L-R

ABFAA Marcus M. Chism
ABFAA William B. Harrison
ABF3 Michael D. Phillips
ABF2 Frank A. Puccini
ABFAA Neal W. White



Front Row, L-R

AA Richard L. Chalmers
ABFAA Richard W. Carlson III
AA Ronald C. Schellhammer
ABFAA Anthony K. Elinger
ABFAN Aaron J. Hill Jr.

Back Row, L-R

AA Alexis M. Zorrilla
AA Chad A. Hunt
ABF2 Ernest L. Marlow Jr.
ABF3 Robert A. Stallins
ABF3 David E. Hall



SUPPLY DEPARTMENT • S1 / S2 DIVISIONS



Front Row, L-R
 MSC Marcelo B. Cardenas
 SHGM Johnny E. Love

Back Row, L-R
 SKC (SW) John M. Bennett
 DFC Douglas A. Dorival
 SKCS (SW) Stanley E. Cantrell



Front Row, L-R
 SKSR Fred E. James
 SN Reginald K. Clark

Back Row, L-R
 SKSA Bobby D. Blevins
 SKSA Shawn A. McDaniel
 SK2 Michael Upson



Front Row, L-R
 MSSN G. M. Hartke
 MSCM B. G. Siagan
 MSSA D. Kelly
 FA B. J. Stackhouse

Back Row, L-R
 MMSA E. M. Becton
 MMSA S. L. Shrum
 AA D. L. Jackson
 MS3 S. L. Cade
 SA T. E. Wilson
 MSSR S. J. Clark

S2 / S3 DIVISIONS • SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R
MS2 T. B. Dimino
MSSA B. S. Butler
MSSN D. T. Calhoun

Back Row, L-R
FN R. G. Gonzalez
MSSA M. L. Conyers
MSSA R. C. Carpernter
MSSA E. D. Mew



Front Row, L-R
SHSR Scott P. Holder
SHSA Reginald L. Crosby Jr.
SHSA Dennis L. Orth
SHSR George Burnett

Back Row, L-R
SHSR Patrick E. Cox
SHSR Allen E. Gray
SHSR Levern Reagins
SHSR Brian M. Murray



Front Row, L-R
SHSA Alex Andrew A. Ferrer
SN Terry Douglas
SH1 Michael A. Rector
SH1 Diosdada L. Morales

Back Row, L-R
SHSA James R. Alfred Jr.
SH1 (SW) Willie L. Evans Jr.
SH3 Ronald J. Jehning
SHSA Wayne A. Raney



SUPPLY DEPARTMENT • S4 / S5 / S6 DIVISIONS



L-R

DKSA Kelvin L. McCarty

DK1 Felind Corpuz

DK2 James S. Waters



Front Row, L-R

MS1 Donald W. Coplien Jr.

MSS Andrew D. Deen

MSSA Ronald Dunham.

Back Row, L-R

MSSA Shawn A. Kalebaugh

MSSA Brent Cockerham

MSSA Victor G. Betts

MSSA John R. Smith



L-R

AA Jason C. Cleanthes

AK2 John A. Rhea

AA Vincent J. Karam

AK1 Lykourgos Fragoulis

S7 / S8 DIVISIONS • SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

DP1 Joseph M. Bell
DP1 Alvin G. Bates Jr.
DP1 Patrick M. Peterson
DP3 Bradley E. Stanford
DPSN Darrin J. Baldinelli

Back Row, L-R

DPSN Chad D. Sailer
DPSA Lance L. Marcum
DPSA James A. Sanders
DPSN Michael W. Crane
DPSA William D. Wood



Front Row, L-R

SK2 Joseph M. Phillips
SK1 Isaac B. Montgomery
AKAA William M. Thying

Back Row, L-R

SKSA Ira R. Buchanan
SKSA Patrick E. Cox
AA Robert F. Lavello



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



Front Row, L-R

ICC (SW) Gregory Hoffman
MMC Randy E. Manuel

Back Row, L-R

EMCS (SW) Lowell P. Redd
MMC Alan W. Arrington
ENC (SW) Gale E. Furthmiller



Front Row, L-R

MMC (SW) James F. Krabel
DCC (SW) Robert B. Beyea
MMC Jon L. Gentry

Back Row, L-R

DCCM (SW) Donald E. Porter
MMCS Richard A. Klein
BTC Thomas J. Schomp
BTCS (SW) Barry L. Hess

A DIVISION • ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

FA Dimas D. Arellano
MM1 William D. Allen
FR Randy Durant
FN David L. McLain
MMFN Richard P. Ward



Back Row, L-R

FR Charles E. McCorkhill
FR Timothy S. Esmeraldo
MMFA Steven A. Smith
MM3 Jamie P. House
MM3 Bobby C. Poovey

Front Row, L-R

MM3 Edward A. Johnson
MM3 Mark J. McCoy
MMFA Timothy L. Joiner
MM1 William L. Brusven
MM1 James M. Thomas



Back Row, L-R

MM2 Scott G. Brown
MM3 John H. Ballard
MM3 George W. Little
MM2 John E. Saari Jr.
FA Mark R. Culbertson

Front Row, L-R

EN1 Douglas A. Sherman
ENFA Terrance R. Poindexter
ENFA Dennis T. Woolfolk
EN1 (SW) Charles J. English
EN3 Gary D. Canary



Back Row, L-R

EN2 Tommy P. Cline
EN3 Lorenzo Murphy
ENFA George A. Bennett
ENFN Kevin D. Jenkins
ENFN Paul Vanhorn
MM2 Mark S. Swager

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT • A / E DIVISIONS



Front Row, L-R

MR1 James E. Lowe II
EM2 Fredrick D. Johnson
MR2 John H. McKenney Jr.
FR Stephen W. Brauer
MR3 Terry H. Giles

Back Row, L-R

MM3 Christopher M. Diamond
EM2 Mills R. Coursey
EM1 William H. Shelley
FA Vernon L. Miller
MMFN Timothy M. Roberts



Front Row, L-R

IC3 Stephen F. Blease
IC2 Allen H. Alexander
ICFA Keith W. Heck
ICFN Spencer Thomas Jr.

Back Row, L-R

ICFA Bienvenido Soto
IC1 Gerard M. McGuire
IC3 Victor S. Mgeni



Front Row, L-R

FA Charles F. Gordon
IC2 Ronald D. Chapin
ICFA Alton J. Randall
IC3 Michael Barrera

Back Row, L-R

ICFA Michael D. Wise
IC2 William D. Taylor Jr.
IC3 Michael R. Semrau
IC1 Jack W. Smith

E / MP OIL LAB DIVISION • ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

EMFN Kenneth R. Sands
EMFA Patrick W. Tilton
EM2 Marcus G. Williams
EM1 (SW) Kenneth D. Alward
FR Nathan D. Brooks

Back Row, L-R

EM2 Julian P. Avila
EMFA Keith B. Ivey
EMFA Rodney W. Custer
EM1 Eric H. Williams
EMFN Lihn D. Mai



Front Row, L-R

EMFA James A. Boley Jr.
EM1 Dwight M. Hall
EM1(SW) William L. Ridgeway Jr.
FR Randy J. Phillips

Back Row, L-R

EMFN Barry E. Lipscomb
EMFA Edward J. Donovan Jr.
EMFN Victor M. Tillman
EM3 Theodore J. Garrity
EMFN Arthur H. Richardson III



Front Row, L-R

BT2 Scott E. Gorham
FA Gerald McDaniel
BT1 (SW) Donald L. Holt

Back Row, L-R

FA Michael D. Johnson
BT3 Lawrence Jackson Jr.
FR Roy D. Livingston



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT • MP FORWARD DIVISION



Front Row, L-R

MM3 Douglas A. Brockhaus
MM3 Jeffery E. Langston
BTFN Kenneth J. Maxwell
BT2 Felipe Barajas

Back Row, L-R

FA John D. Lamneck
BTFA James B. Campbell
FN Steven J. St. Clair
BTFA Carthe! Hill Jr.



Front Row, L-R

BT1 Wayne A. Beyer
BTFN Walter P. Wilson
BTFA Michael K. Boswell
MMFA Gerald J. Rodriguez

Back Row, L-R

FR Michael J. Thompson
MM1 (SW) Michael L. Lemke
BT1 (SW) Jeffery T. Ginn
MM3 Shane F. Tolley



Front Row, L-R

MMFA Pablo O. Dayao
MM3 Jamie J. Medrano
BT3 Steven P. Fulton
BTFN Sherman B. Bibee Jr.

Back Row, L-R

FR Gregory R. Woolfolk
MM2 Jeffery D. Cross
BTFA Adrian A. Vines
BTFA Tim D. McCoy

MP AFT DIVISION • ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Front Row, L-R

FA Ronald Redmond
BT1 Walter H. Kleinertz Jr.
BT2 Lewis R. Gillum
MM3 Robert A. Evenson
MMF A Manual O. Chan

Back Row, L-R

MMFA Edward E. Watson
MMFN Michael A. Dillon
MM2 Gregory A. Reinhardt
FA Michael C. Greiner
BTFA Daniel L. Hampton



Front Row, L-R

MM3 Brent A. Shafer
MM3 Dave C. Bonham
MM2 Kenneth R. Lentz
BT2 Don S. Tripp

Back Row, L-R

MM1 Herbert L. Broughton Jr.
MMFA Ronald Glover
FR Paul P. Barry
FA Percy H. Henning
FR Matthew M. Montana



Front Row, L-R

FR Carl E. Reid Jr.
MM3 William J. Packard
BTFN Romont A. Jones
BT2 Jose A. Aguerrebere

Back Row, L-R

MM3 Paul Cato
BTFN John D. Stuart
BTFN Martin A. Szwed



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT • R DIVISION



Front Row, L-R

DCFA John M. Landers
DCFA Leonard E. Beard III
FA David C. Bruno

Back Row, L-R

HT2 John M. Earnest
DC1 Mark A. Reigle
DCFA David C. Burke
DC2 Robert L. Wentworth



Front Row, L-R

DCFA Michael A. Barden
DCFA David L. Mastin
DCFA Donald R. Jenkins
FA William O. Givens
DCFA Brian T. Durden

Back Row, L-R

FN Willie Beaty Jr.
HTFA Christopher N. Boucher
DCFA William G. Vetter Jr.
HT2 Richard G. Schultz
DCFA Gary K. Westburg



Front Row, L-R

DCFA Frank R. Brown Jr.
DCFA Joseph B. Sidlauskas
FR Morris Akes Jr.
FN Joe W. Giles
HTFA Dennis D. Wendt

Back Row, L-R

FR Joseph L. Robinson
HT1 Gary J. Sullins
DCFA Robert D. Matthews
HT2 (SW) Michael T. Hunter
HT2 Fredrick L. Brumbaugh

COMBAT CARGO DEPARTMENT

L-R

MGYSGT Frank J. Zechmeister
GYSGT Leonard A. Shrauger
GYSGT Michael A. Ackermann



SAFETY DEPARTMENT • SAFETY DIVISION



Front Row, L-R

EM1 (AW) Alexander M. Abrenica

BM2 Jose Cardona

Back Row, L-R

FC1 Jeffery L. Coufal

AD2 William S. Holloway

ABH2 (AW) Dayle C. Carlson Jr.



AVIATION INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

IM-1 DIVISION

L-R

ATC (AW) Russell K. Rubley
ASC (AW) David L. Hughes
AFCM (AW) Neil E. Rouse
AOCS (AW) Paul N. Schmidt Jr.



Front Row, L-R

PR1 Cecil E. Nixon Jr.
AZ2 Sidney D. Stollings
AZAA Richard L. Langstaff

Back Row, L-R

AK2 Jackie L. Earlywine
AD1 David E. Fleming
AMS2 Jessee J. Dukes Jr.



AVIATION INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

IM-2 / IM-3 / IM-4 DIVISIONS



Front Row, L-R

PR1 Clifford Elkins III
AD3 Michael H. Stafford
AMH1 Ronald L. Phillips

Back Row, L-R

AMHAA Anthony W. Bosworth
AD3 Daniel C. McCullough
ADAA Paul Casanova
AE2 Richard E. Jones



L-R

AT2 Randy L. Long
AT1 Joseph E. Gilbert Jr.
ATAN Andrew F. Bramstedt



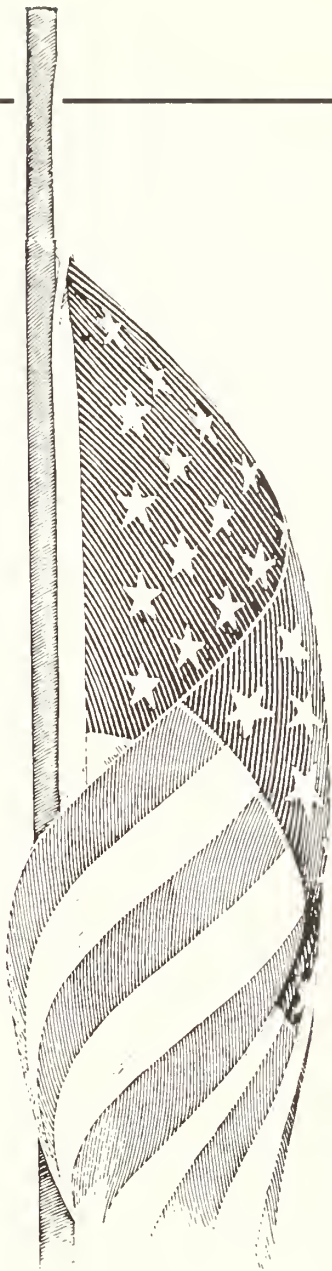
Front Row, L-R

ASM2 Reginald L. Evans
ASM2 Christian L. Kimball
AS1 (AW) Charles E. Dixon
ASMAM Nicholas A. Beaupre
AS3 Michael A. Luciano

Back Row, L-R

ASEAA John D. Martin
ASEAA David A. Gonzales
AR Terry D. Brock
ASMAA Keith L. Painter
AA Aaron M. Runnels

IN MEMORIAM



Master Chief Petty Officer
Arthur A. McChesney

Fireman Scott Oswalt

Airman Richard R. Angelella

Ship's Servicemen Fermin Colon, Jr.

*Lord, we commend to
your loving care the souls
of our fallen shipmates.*

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM OUR CAPTAIN



29 July 1989
Norfolk, Virginia

Dear Friends,

WASP comes alive today. USS WASP (LHD 1), the tenth ship to bear the name, today joins the fleet, ready to take its place as one of the premier ships of the Navy. On behalf of the sailors who have served in WASPs and the men who still serve in USS WASP (LHD 1), thank you for joining us on this memorable occasion.

The nine previous WASPs, who came alive in their own separate ways, are gone now, but each established a tradition of excellence. Whether supporting the Navy's first amphibious assault in 1776, earning victories at sea in the days of sail, serving as models of courage in war, or leading in the preservation of peace, USS WASPs have served their nation well. We are honored to follow in the wake of the unequalled historic record of accomplishment.

The WASP you see before you today is the culmination of the finest in engineering technology and shipbuilding expertise. As a multi-purpose amphibious assault ship, USS WASP represents the ultimate platform for the Navy and Marine team. No other ship can boast of such state-of-the-art command and control and information processing capabilities. No other ship can control over-the-horizon heliborne and waterborne assault so well while supporting fixed wing vertical take off aircraft. In one quantum leap, amphibious warfare has surged into the 21st century.

At the same time, the magnificent structure that is WASP is the product of superb designers and skilled craftsmen. The blending of the Navy and civilian shipbuilding team has never been better represented than in USS WASP. As you walk the decks this afternoon admire the ship and reflect on the thousands of hours of effort and pride that have molded USS WASP.

The true magic that breathes life into WASP today is her crew. The thousand sailors who will steam her, fight her, and bring USS WASP into action today are her soul. Starting with a handful of dedicated men in Norfolk and Pascagoula, we have grown into a closely-knit team of professionals. Handpicked, the men of USS WASP embody the finest in today's Navy.

Completing the WASP family are the families and friends of our crew; thank you for coming today and encouraging our efforts. Thank you, too, to the people of Norfolk and Hampton Roads who have allowed us to share this occasion with them. The commissioning of USS WASP represents the best that is the Navy, Marine Corps and civilian community.

Welcome and Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. E. Picotte'.

L. E. Picotte
Captain, U.S. Navy



1775

1989

THE TRADITION LIVES ON